

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /033 W
-----281449Z 028505 /45
R 281240Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0429

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1807

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SW
SUBJECT: THE VIEW FROM STOCKHOLM UPON DEPARTURE

1. I TRUST A FEW LAST THOUGHTS ARE IN ORDER AS I DEPART SWEDEN. THE VIEW FROM STOCKHOLM IS FUNDAMENTALLY A HAPPY ONE AS FAR AS AMERICAN INTERESTS ARE CONCERNED, I AM GLAD TO SAY, AND I EXPECT THE CURRENT COURSE OF FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS TO CONTINUE.

2. WE HAVE COME A GOOD DISTANCE SINCE THE NADIR IN US-SWEDISH RELATIONS DURING VIETNAM. THIS BEING A LEFTWARD COUNTRY IN AMERICAN POLITICAL TERMS, THERE IS A CERTAIN RESIDUE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM HERE, ESPECIALLY IN PARTS OF THE MEDIA, DESPITE THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR. I HAVE DEVOTED A GOOD DEAL OF MY TIME TO SEEKING IMPROVEMENT IN THIS SITUATION DURING MY YEAR IN SWEDEN, AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. IN FACT I THINK IT FAIR TO SAY THAT ANTI-AMERICANISM IS NO LONGER IMPORTANT ENOUGH HERE TO REPRESENT ANY IRRITANT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. AS THE US AND SWEDEN FIND MORE AND MORE COMMON GROUND IN THEIR POLICIES, AS SEEMS TO BE THE CASE, I BELIEVE THIS PROGRESS IN THE TONE OF OUR RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE.

3. IN CONCRETE POLITICAL MATTERS, THE RELATIONSHIP IS EXCELLENT NOW AND I SEE INCREASING ROOM FOR COOPERATION. THE ADVENT OF A NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT FOR THE FIRST
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TIME IN FORTY-FOUR YEARS HAS NOT CHANGED ANY BASIC POLICIES IMMEDIATELY, BUT IT HAS BEEN IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL OUTLOOK OF SWEDES, AND IT FURNISHES A SOLID BASIS FOR US COOPERATION WITH THEM. I RECOMMEND THAT WE CONTINUE TO WORK AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH THE FALLDIN COALITION GOVERNMENT, SINCE ITS SUCCESS IS NOT ONLY GOOD FOR SWEDISH DEMOCRACY, IN MY VIEW, BUT ALSO PROVIDES A

SOMEWHAT MORE COMFORTABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR US-SWEDISH COOPERATION. (HOWEVER, SHOULD THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS RETURN TO POWER, I BELIEVE WE COULD WORK WITH THEM AGAIN AS WELL.) MY PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH THE NEW CABINET HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT, AND I FEEL SURE MY SUCCESSOR WILL FIND A COMFORTABLE WORKING SITUATION.

4. ONE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION IS THAT THE USG LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL WAYS TO USE SWEDEN'S GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD. WHILE THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS NOT SO MILITANTLY GLOBAL IN OUTLOOK AS PALME WAS, THE STRONG TIES WITH THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES PERSIST, AND I HOPE WE WILL LOOK FOR WAYS TO USE SWEDEN AS A CHANNEL.

5. IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SWEDEN HAS SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND THAT ANY SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS IS GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE ECONOMICS PRIME ATTENTION. AS EMBASSY REPORTING HAS INDICATED, I DO BELIEVE THAT SWEDEN IS FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND AND WILL OVERCOME MOST OF THE OBSTACLES IT NOW FACES AND KEEP THE ECONOMY IN GOOD SHAPE. ITS PROBLEMS WILL CONTINUE TO CREATE SOME FRICTION WITH US, ESPECIALLY IN THE REALM OF PROTECTIONISM, BUT BY AND LARGE THE DRIVE TO COOPERATE WITH US, AND TO USE US ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE TO HELP SWEDISH PERFORMANCE, IS OVERRIDING. THEREFORE I LOOK FOR SOME TROUBLE BUT ABOVE ALL A CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP IN ECONOMIC MATTERS.

6. IN THE SECURITY AREA, RELATIONS HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT,
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AND WILL CONTINUE SO, I AM SURE. THE SWEDES WILL WATCH OUR RELATIONS WITH THE USSR WITH A WORRIED EYE, HOWEVER, HOPING WE CAN PULL OFF THE TRICK OF CONTINUING TO LESSEN EAST-WEST TENSIONS WHILE STILL KEEPING AN EFFECTIVE US AND NATO COUNTERWEIGHT TO GROWING SOVIET STRENGTH IN EUROPE. SWEDEN IS NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE NORDIC BALANCE AND ABOUT CONTINUOUS SOVIET PRESSURE ON FINLAND, SO THAT THE OLD "WHAT AFTER TITO?" WORRIES HAVE A COUNTERPART HERE IN "WHAT AFTER KEKKONEN?" THE PRIME MINISTER'S REITERATION TO ME IN MY FAREWELL CALL OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED CLOSE MILITARY SUPPLY COOPERATION WAS A GOOD INDICATION OF WHERE THINGS STAND. THE SWEDES KNOW HOW MUCH THEY NEED OUR HELP. I CERTAINLY HOPE WE WILL CONTINUE TO HELP THEM IN THE SECURITY FIELD AS MUCH AS THEIR NEUTRAL POSITION ALLOWS US TO.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1807

7. OUR RECORD OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS HAS BEEN EXCELLENT OVER THE PAST YEAR, AND I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SODER WILL BE WELL RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON IN JUNE. AT THE FAREWELL LUNCH SHE GAVE FOR ME APRIL 26 SHE EMPHASIZED HOW MUCH IMPORTANCE SHE ATTACHED TO THE VISIT, AND SENT HER PERSONAL REGARDS TO THE SECRETARY. OTHER VISITS SHOULD BE SCHEDULED IN ADDITION TO THOSE ALREADY PLANNED, AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT A VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN WILL BE CONTEMPLATED FOR 1978. I HOPE IT WILL NOT BE PRESUMPTUOUS OF ME TO SUGGEST THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN AT SOME DATE, WHEN THE PRESIDENT MIGHT BE COMING TO EUROPE (POSSIBLY ON A VISIT TO MOSCOW), OF A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO SWEDEN. IN MANY AREAS I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A WISE INVESTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S TIME, IF OTHER COMMITMENTS ALLOWED.

8. LET ME SAY A FINAL WORD ABOUT THE EMBASSY. WHEN I WAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN, I WAS ADVISED TO GIVE AS MUCH ATTENTION AS POSSIBLE TO IMPROVING EMBASSY MORALE. I HAVE DONE SO, AND I THINK THE RESULTS ARE GOOD: CERTAINLY I TAKE PRIDE IN THE HARMONIOUS WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WE HAVE HAD. I HAVE THE HIGHEST REGARD FOR THE CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE, AND IN LEAVING STOCKHOLM I WISH TO SAY HOW GREATLY I HAVE ENJOYED WORKING WITH ALL OF THE STAFF.

9. I SUPPOSE MOST AMBASSADORS WHO WRITE SWAN SONG MESSAGES
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TEND TO SAY THAT EVERYTHING IS ROSY, AND I HOPE I HAVE NOT OVERDONE THAT. BUT ANYONE WHO LOOKS BACK ON THE RECENT PAST OF US-SWEDISH RELATIONS CAN SEE HOW FAR WE HAVE COME,

AND I AM VERY HAPPY TO HAVE SERVED HERE IN SUCH AN
ENCOURAGING TIME. I PASS THE BATON TO MY SUCCESSOR WITH
A STRONG FEELING THE SWEDISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WILL
CONTINUE TO PROSPER.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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